60

23

A PETITION OF THE Houſe of Commons,

Preſented to his Majeſty, with the *Remonſtrance* of the State of the Kingdome.

Printed, 1641.

PETITION

of the

House of Commons,

presented to His Majesty,

the Remonstrance of the State

of the Kingdom.

To the Kings moſt excellent Majeſtie.

Moſt Gracious Soveraigne,

Our Majeſties moſt humble and faithfull ſubjects the Commoners in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, doe with much thankfulneſſe and joy, acknowle ge the great mercy and favour of God, in giving your Majeſty a ſafe and peaceable returne out of *Scotland* into your Kingdome of *England*, where the preſſing dangers and diſtempers of the State, have cauſed us with much earneſtneſſe to deſire the comfort of your gracious Preſence, and likewiſe the Unitie and Juſtice of your Royall authority to give more life and power to the dutifull and loyall Counſels, and endevours of your Parliament, for the prevention of that eminent ruine and deſtruction wherein your Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland* are threatned. The duty which we owe to your Majeſty and our Countrey, cannot but make us very ſenſible and apprehenſive, that the multiplicity, ſharpeneſſe, and malignity of thoſe evils under which we have now many yeares ſuffered, are fomented and cheriſhed by a corrupt and ill affected party, who amongſt other their miſchievous devices for the alteration of Religion and government, have ſought by many

falſe ſcandals and imputations cunningly inſinuated, and diſperſed amongſt the people, to blemiſh and diſgrace our proceedings in this Parliament, and to get themſelves a party and faction amongſt your Subjects, for the better ſtrengthening of themſelves in their wieked courſes, and hindering thoſe proviſions, and remedies which might by the wiſdome of your Majeſty, and Counſell of your Parliament be oppoſed againſt them.

For preventing whereof, and the better information of your Majeſty, your Peeres, and all other your loyall Subjects, we have beene neceſſitated to make a declaration of the ſtate of the Kingdome, both before and ſince the aſſembly of this Parliament unto this time, which we doe humbly preſent to your Majeſty without the leaſt intention to lay any blemiſh upon your Royall Perſon, but only to repreſent how your Royall Authority and truſt have beene abuſed, to the great prejudice and danger of your Majeſty, and of all your good ſubjects.

And becauſe wee have reaſon to beleeve that thoſe malignant partyes whoſe proceedings evidently appeare to be, mainly for the advantage and encreaſe of Popery, is compoſed, ſet up, and acted by the ſubtile practiſe of the Jeſuits, and other Engineers and Factors for *Rome*, and to the great danger of this Kingdome, and moſt grievous affliction of your loyall Subjects, have ſo farre prevailed, as to corrupt divers of your Biſhops, and others in prime places of the Church, and alſo to bring divers of theſe Inſtruments to be of your Privy Counſell, and other employments of truſt and neereneſſe about your Majeſtie, the Prince, and the reſt of your Royall Children.

And by this meanes hath had ſuch an operation in your Counſell, and the moſt important affaires and proceedings

ceedings of your government, that a moſt dangerous deviſion, and chargeable preparation for warre betwixt your Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland*, the encreaſe of jealouſies betwixt your Majeſty, and your moſt obedient Subjects, the violent diſtraction and interruption of this Parliament, the inſurrection of the Papiſts in this Kingdome, and bloudy maſſacre of your people have beene not only endevoured and attempted, but in a great meaſure compaſſed and effected.

For preventing the finall accompliſhment whereof, your poore Subjects are enforced to engage their perſons and eſtates to the maintaining of a very expencefull and dangerous Warre, notwithſtanding they have already ſince the beginning of this Parliament undergone the charge of 150000. pounds ſterling or thereabouts, for the neceſſary ſupport and ſupply of your Majeſty in theſe preſent and perilous Deſignes. And becauſe all our moſt faithfull endevours, and engagements will be ineffectuall for the peace, ſafety, and preſervation of your Majeſty and your people, if ſome preſent, reall and effectuall courſe be not taken for ſuppreſſing this wicked and malignant party.

Wee your moſt humble and obedient Subjects doe with all faithfulneſſe and humility beſeech your Majeſty,

1 *That you will be graciouſly pleaſed to concurre with the humble deſires of your people in a Parliamentary way, for the preſerving the peace and ſafety of the Kingdome from the malicious deſignes of the Popiſh party.*

For depriving the Biſhops of their Votes in Parliament, and abridging their immoderate power uſurped over the Clergy, and other your good Subjects which they have moſt pernitiouſly abuſed to

the hazard of Religion, and great prejudice and oppreſſion of the Laws of the Kingdome, and juſt liberty of your people.

For the taking away ſuch oppreſſions in Religion, Church-government, and Diſcipline, as have been brought in and fomented by them.

For uniting all ſuch your loyall Subjects together, as joyne in the ſame fundamentall truths againſt the Papiſts, by removing ſome oppreſſions and unneceſſary Ceremonies, by which divers weak Conſciences have been ſcrupled, and ſeeme to be divided from the reſt, for the due execution of thoſe good Laws which have been made for ſecuring the liberty of your Subjects.

2 *That your Majeſty will likewiſe be pleaſed to remove from your Counſell all ſuch as perſiſt to favour, and promote any of thoſe preſſures and corruptions wherewith your people have beene grieved, and that for the future your Majeſty will vouchſafe to employ ſuch perſons in your great and publike affaires, and to take ſuch to be neer you in places of truſt, as your Parliament may have cauſe to confide in, that in your Princely goodneſſe to your people, you will reject and refuſe all mediation and ſollicitation to the contrary, how powerfull and neere ſoever.*

3 *That you will be pleaſed to forbeare to alienate any of the forfeited and eſcheated Lands in* Ireland, *which ſhall accrue to your Crowne, by reaſon of this Rebellion, that out of them the Crowne may be the better ſupported, and ſome ſatisfaction made to your Subjects of this Kingdomes, for the great expences they are like to undergoe in this warre.*

Which humble deſires of ours being graciouſly fulfilled

filled by your Majeſty, we will by the bleſsing and favour of God moſt cheerfully undergoe the hazard and expences of this warre, and apply our ſelves to ſuch other courſes and counſels as may ſupport your Royall eſtate with honour and plenty at home, with power and reputation abroad, and by our loyall affections, obedience, and ſervice, lay a ſure and laſting foundation of the greatneſſe and proſperity of your Majeſty, and your Royall poſteritie in future times.

FINIS.